

Announcements

The Editors also want to call your attention to an expert roundtable on “Discussions in cardiothoracic treatment and care: Quality improvement in cardiac surgery.” This hot topic features a spirited conversation between noted quality improvement experts Drs Fred Grover, Alan Speir, and Richard Prager, moderated by Dr Jeffrey Rich. They discuss opportunities and pitfalls for clinical quality improvement, including data sharing organizations, resident quality improvement training, and the roles of national professional societies. For an excerpt and more highlights from this discussion, please visit <http://www.semtcvspeds.com>.

Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery

The Editors of *Operative Techniques in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* want to call your attention to the upcoming Summer 2013 issue. The procedures described include endovascular repair for aortic dissections, the hemi-Fontan procedure, and esophagectomy. For each topic, 2 experts surgeons discuss the technical details and outcomes of their technique. Each article is accompanied by detailed illustrations outlining each step of the procedure.

The Western Thoracic Surgical Association

Applications for Membership

The WTSA is now accepting Applications for Membership online for Active as well as Candidate membership status. Visit the WTSA Web site at www.westernthoracic.org to read the complete membership eligibility requirements and to initiate an online application.

Active Member

\$325.00 annually, plus \$50.00 initiation fee

Applicant must meet all membership criteria, including but not limited to:

- Reside within or have completed a cardiothoracic residency training program within the geographic limits of the Association.
- Have been engaged in the practice of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery for at least three years following completion of postgraduate training. If a candidate completed his/her thoracic surgical residency in an institution within the geographic limits of the Association, such completion may count toward one of the three years of practice.
- Have a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in his or her respective state or province, and have a current appointment on the surgical staff of a hospital with no reportable action pending which could adversely affect such applicant's staff privileges at any hospital.

Candidate Member

\$100.00 annually

Applicant must meet all membership criteria, including but not limited to:

- Be matched or enrolled in either a cardiothoracic surgery education program accredited by the Residency Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery under the authority of the ACGME or a program approved for cardiothoracic surgery education by the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada—or their equivalency—from within the Association's geographic limits. Individuals who have completed their education in one of the above programs and are in the process of acquiring certification in cardiothoracic surgery by either the American Board of Thoracic Surgery or the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada also are eligible to apply for Candidate membership.

An application must include the following uploads: a photo; a complete curriculum vitae with bibliography; and, for Active applicants, the 3 most significant articles that s/he personally wrote. The application must be completed and submitted online by March 1, 2014, and all support letter(s) (three for Active applicants, one for Candidates) uploaded by that applicant's sponsor(s) by March 31, 2014, in order for the applicant to be considered for election to membership at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

40th Annual Meeting Call for Abstracts

The WTSA's 40th Annual Meeting will be held at the St. Regis Monarch Beach in Dana Point, California, from June 25-28, 2014. Abstract and video submissions are now being accepted for presentation consideration at the 2014 WTSA Annual Meeting through Monday, January 6, 2014, at 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time. Visit the WTSA Web site at www.westernthoracic.org to view author instructions and to submit abstracts and videos.